

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 029945
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
S/S-O: JETHYDEN

-----046474 041157Z /13

R 040253Z PEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 029945

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PEPR, PLO, EG, US

SUBJECT: PLO'S DISARRAY

1. PAMELA DE MAIGRET, WHO HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SETTING UP MEETINGS BETWEEN AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN AND PLO LEADERSHIP, SPENT SOME TIME RECENTLY IN BEIRUT, AND HAD NUMEROUS TALKS WITH ARAFAT, FARUK QADDUMI, AND SALAH KHALAF IN PAR;ICULAR. SHE MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS TO US:

-- THE SO-CALLED MODERATES AND PRAGMATISTS HAVE RECOVERED SOMEWHAT FROM THEIR RECENTLY GLOOMY FEELINGS THAT THE MILITANTS WERE GETTING CONTROL OF THE PLO. THE PRAGMATISTS ARE STILL CASTING ABOUT FOR WAYS OF DEALING THE PLO
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INTO THE PEACE PROCESS AT SOME FUTURE STAGE. THEY COME UP WITH VARIOUS FORMULAS AIMED AT IMPLYING TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPIONION THAT THE PLO HAS RECOGNIZED ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST, BUT STILL STOP SHORT OF RECOMMENDING AN UNAMBIGUOUS PLO STAND ON THE QUESTION. ARAFAT TOLD HER THAT ANY SUCH MAJOR PLO DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE RATIFIED "UN-

ANIMOUSLY" BY THE FULL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THAT THERE WAS NO PROSPECT THAT THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED FOR THE MOMENT.

--SALAH KHALAF ASSERTED HE WAS STILL COOPERATING WITH, OR AT LEAST NOT OPPOSING, THOSE MODERATES WHO INSISTED THE PLO CONTINUE POLICIES DESIGNED TO ATTRACT GREATER INTERNATIONAL RESPECTABILITY, DESPITE HIS INNER FEELINGS THAT THIS TRACK IS NOT PROMISING.

-- PLO, THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN CAIRO, STILL HAS THE CAPACITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH SADAT AND WOULD LIKE TO DO SO AT LEAST SECRETLY, BUT SADAT HAS SHOWN NO REAL INTEREST IN FURTHER EXCHANGES.

-- THE PLO IS NOW IN CONTACT WITH HUSSEIN AGAIN.

-- SHE GAINED IMPRESSION, INCLUDING FROM SALAH KHALAF, THAT PLO/FATAH HAD NOT RPT NOT SPECIFICALLY ORDERED ASSASSINATION OR INTIMIDATION CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST BANK, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PLO -- THROUGH PLO UN REP TERZI AMONG OTHERS -- HAD APPEARED TO TAKE CREDIT FOR AT LEAST ONE RECENT WEST BANK MURDER. HER UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THIS IMPRESSION CAME OUT, HOWEVER, WHEN SHE ADMITTED THAT CERTAIN PLO LEADERS TOLD HER IN EFFECT THAT THIS WAS A TIME WHEN "SCORES WOULD BE SETTLED" AND THAT THERE WAS NOTHING MUCH ANYONE COULD DO ABOUT IT. SHE SAID ARAFAT RECOGNIZED THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS WOULD BE CARRYING OUT ASSASSINATIONS,

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THAT HE SEEMED TO DEPLORE IT, BUT THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING ACTIVELY TO STOP SUCH EFFORTS.

2. SHORTLY BEFORE COMING TO WASHINGTON, DE MAIGRET HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM FARUK QADDUMI WHO HAD SPECULATED ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING BASIL AKL, AS A KNOWN PLO MODERATE, GO TO WASHINGTON DURING SADAT'S VISIT HERE AND MEET WITH HIM. THE IDEA WAS THAT THIS WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE CONTINUED INTEREST OF THE PLO MODERATES IN GETTING INTO THE PEACE PROCESS. IT WOULD ALSO BE A SIGN OF SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S INITIATIVE. MAKING THIS GESTURE ON AMERICAN SOIL WOULD HELP DRAMATIZE IT FOR THE AMERICAN AUDIENCE AND LEND THE "MODERATES" NEW RESPECTABILITY.

3. DE MAIGRET MENTIONED THIS TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR GHORBAL, WHO FIGURATIVELY THREW HIS HANDS IN THE AIR. WHEN SHE MENTIONED THIS IDEA TO US, WE MADE CLEAR THAT IT WAS A NON-STARTER FROM BEGINNING TO END, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO U.S. COOPERATION IN SUCH A VENTURE, THAT SADAT CLEARLY WOULD NEVER GO ALONG WITH SUCH AN IDEA, ETC. WE,

OF COURSE, CANNOT BE SURE WHETHER THIS IDEA WAS ACTUALLY BROACHED SERIOUSLY BY ANY PLO LEADERS OR WHETHER IT REFLECTED BASICALLY UNILATERAL EFFORT BY DE MAIGRET TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF THE PLO MODERATES.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, HOWEVER, WE ASKED HER WHETHER

SHE SENSED ANY READINESS ON THE PART OF THE PLO LEADERSHIP TO ALLOW PALESTINIANS OTHER THAN WELL-KNOWN PLO FIGURES TO BE REPRESENTED IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AT SOME FUTURE MOMENT. SHE SAID SHE HAD TALKED ABOUT THIS WITH THEM. ON THE BASIS OF SUCH TALKS, HER BEST GUESS IS THAT A PALESTINIAN GROUP OF ACADEMICS, WEST BANK LEADERS, ETC., MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE EVENTUALLY TO THE PLO, PROVIDED THE GROUP WAS LED BY SOMEONE IN THE MIDDLE RANK OF PLO

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ECHELONS. SUCH A PERSON MIGHT BE BASIL AKL. VANCE

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

DRAFTED BY:IO:UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO:UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:MCEURVORST

-----067944 070750Z /1,945

R 070600Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3049

S E C R E T STATE 029945

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED FEBRUARY 4, 1978 SENT BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, CAIRO, TEL AVIV, AMMAN, JIDDA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 feb 1978
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Subject: PLO'S DISARRAY
TAGS: PEPR, EG, US, PEPR, PLO, (DE MAIGRET, PAMELA)
To: BEIRUT CAIRO MULTIPLE
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